

SECRET

Legation

BRITISH RESIDENT'S OFFICE

AMMAN

TRANS-JORDAN.

S 1004 47

F0816/114

N
1327

SUBJECT:

*Economic Commission for the
Middle East.*

GPP. 9731-1000-11-2-40

CONNECTED FILES

NUMBER AND YEAR

SUBJECT

S/898/46.

Development of M.E. Countries.

S/992/47

Anglo-American Cooperation in the Middle East.

S/909/47

Britain's Econ. & Financial Position.

S 1004 47

Economic Commission for the Middle East.

SECRET

1A

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

WORLD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT No. 171

BRITISH MIDDLE EASTERN OFFICE CAIRO, 243

11th March, 1947.

D: 4.40 a.m. 12th March, 1947

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York 803
Cairo 557
Damascus 134
Bagdad 225
Tehran 224
Jedda 135.

A A A A

IMMEDIATE.

FERTILE

At the current session of the Economic and Social Council in New York the Lebanese delegate suggested the establishment of a Middle Eastern Economic Commission. He was presumably inspired by the fact that the Council, in accordance with the terms of resolution of the United Nations' Assembly is giving "prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of an economic commission for Europe and an economic commission for the Far East".

2. If a Middle Eastern Economic Commission were to be set up on similar lines its membership would probably have to include non-Middle Eastern powers with important interests in the area (namely U.S.S.R. and France as well as United States and United Kingdom); and there might well be a demand that it should cover the whole area from Turkey to Afghanistan inclusive, embracing a number of Soviet Socialist Republics which would not be eligible for membership of the European or Far Eastern Commission. It would have headquarters located somewhere in the Middle East; and would tend to take over the functions of existing machinery for economic coordination in the area e.g. B.M.E.O. and the economic section of the Arab League.

3. Our preliminary view of the Lebanese proposal is that it is certainly premature and might be dangerous to the extent that it gives the U.S.S.R. an additional opportunity of under-mining the stability of Middle Eastern Governments and interfering in Middle Eastern economic plans including oil concessions.

/4. Our

4. Our delegation to the Economic and Social Council is proposing to suggest, if the matter is brought up again, that the problem calls for study and the Secretariat be asked to prepare a report for the next session of the Council. It is conceivable however that pressure may develop for more immediate action and in order to guide our delegation we should like to know how far the Lebanese proposal is seriously supported by the Lebanese Government and whether it has been discussed with other members of the Arab League particularly from the point of view of its possible effect on the economic section of the League. Despite our views as expressed in the preceding paragraph we should not wish to be put in a position of opposing or stalling on any suggestion which had widespread support in the Middle East for tightening the links of that area with the United Nations and which might, at any rate at first sight, appear likely to assist the development and reconstruction in the Middle East by giving members of the Commission a channel through which to approach, e.g. the International Bank.

5. Would Beirut and B.M.E.O. telegraph urgently to New York repeating to us any information which they are able to obtain in answer to the above. The posts to whom this telegram is repeated should not (repeat not) make any enquiries since this might only serve to stimulate the interest of the Governments concerned in the project.

[Cairo only] Please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram No.243.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

En clair

WORLD ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 206 SAVING

R. 28th October, 1947.

24th October, 1947.

Repeated to: Washington No 2822 Saving.

FERTILE

Your telegram No. 2540 [of 17th October].

Economic Commission for the Middle East.

Committee 2 devoted three sessions to this question, reaching favourable conclusion by overwhelming majority October 23rd. There was no (repeat no) opposition at any time to the general principle in the last paragraph of the draft in my telegram No. 2836 [October 9th] (that the Economic and Social Council should study the question of the setting up of such a Commission) and discussion concerned secondary matters.

2. Text of resolution as passed will be found in my immediately following savingram.

3. Principal changes in the original resolution were -

(a) several verbal amendments, including one in the operative part of the resolution, to make the text conform as closely as possible to the resolution of the Economic and Social Council in regard to the Latin American Commission (resolution No. 70(v), preamble, paragraph 2);

(b) Insertion of a Lebanese amendment noting the generally favourable reception in the 2nd Committee of the idea of a Latin American Commission. This insertion was opposed as improper and irrelevant by all the disinterested delegations, but the matter unfortunately became one of prestige and despite interventions by many delegations, including ourselves, the axe-grinders won by 22 votes to 20;

(c) alteration of the penultimate paragraph so as to make it quite clear that co-operation with regional organisations was not restricted to the Arab League. Egyptian delegate started by being most obstinate about his original draft, but eventually the general opinion of the Committee forced the change which will be found in the final resolution and which removes any suspicion of exclusiveness.

Turkish/...

Turkish delegation, with a very small number of supporters, stood out to the end for elimination of all mention of the Arab League, but as Arabs clearly felt very strongly on the point and there was clearly no possibility of Turkish amendment being carried we thought it best to abstain when it came to a vote.

4. Soviet delegation tried to re-insert the study of the possibility of the Middle Eastern countries joining the Commission for Asia and the Far East until a separate commission for the Middle East was set up, but this proposal was heavily defeated.

MM

2B

(10305/1629/53)

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

En Clair

WORLD ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations.)

No. 207 SAVING

24th October, 1947.

R: 28th October, 1947.

Repeated to: Washington No. 2,823 Saving.

FERTILE

My immediately preceding Savingram [October 24th] paragraph 2.

Economic Commission for the Middle East.

Following is text of Resolution passed by Committee 2, October 24th.

[Begins]

The General Assembly.

1. Considering the interest of the United Nations in problems relating to the economic development of all under-developed regions;
2. Taking note of the Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its Fifth Session requesting the Economic and Employment Commission to study the general problems connected with the establishment of regional commissions as a means to promote the aims and purposes of the United Nations;
3. Taking note with satisfaction of the decision by the Council at that Session to establish an ad hoc committee for the purpose of studying the factors bearing upon the establishment of an Economic Commission for Latin America.
4. Taking note of the general favourable reception given to the proposal for an Economic Commission for Latin America by the Second Committee.
5. Recognising that co-operative measures among all the countries of the Middle East can be of practical assistance in raising both the level of economic activity and the standard of life in the Middle East and in strengthening the economic relations of these countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world, and that such measures would be facilitated by close co-operation with the United Nations and its subsidiary organs as well as with regional organisations in the Middle East such as the Arab League;
6. Invites the Economic and Social Council to study the factors bearing upon the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East. [Ends]

@@@

FILE NO.S/1004/47.

TELEGRAM.

3

Cypher M/OTP

Code

~~Clear~~

From :— B.M.E.O. Cairo

To :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 27/1/48 (12.07)

Received 27/1/48 (12.40)

No. 4 of 26th January, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Teheran telegram No.8 of January 26th. Addis Ababa, Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut, Jedda.

Repeated to Foreign Office and Amman.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Fertile.

~~asked~~ (1)

I have been ~~standing~~ by Foreign Office to(1) ascertain the views of the Middle East countries on the proposal to establish an economic commission for the Middle East which as a result of the Assembly resolution last October is to be considered(1) by the economic and social council at its session opening on February 2nd. Foreign Office wish to have advance information on the attitude of the Middle East countries generally to the idea of having such a(1) commission and in particular their reactions to the suggestion hitherto favoured by H.M.G. that membership of the commission should be confined to those powers whose territory^{ies} would(1) lie within its geographical(1) scope. This would mean that unlike the economic commissions already established for Europe and the Far East the Middle East commission would exclude all great powers except that any colonial possessions of such powers in the area would be represented by associate membership. The purpose of this self denying (ordinance - Sic) on the part of the great powers would be to(1) exclude Russia whose only purpose, if she were(1) a member of the commission would be to get(1) a recognition of the footing in the Middle East and create trouble. Another point which will no doubt be discussed(1) at the economic and social council will be the geographical area that the commission if established should cover.

2. No(1) useful purpose(1) would be served by my sounding the Middle East missions in Cairo. They are at the moment mostly in

charge/...2

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

- 2 -

Clear

From :—

To :—

Despatched

Received

No.

of

charge of Charge d'Affaires who would not be(1) informed of the views of their Governments. In any case if I were to make a sudden tour of these missions for this purpose I should arouse undesirable speculation.

3. Could you therefore sound out(1) the Government to which you are accredited and telegraph your reply direct to the Foreign Office repeating your telegram to B.M.E.O. The Foreign Office have asked for a very early reply.

4. You may have received from the Foreign Office the copy of(1) I.O.C. (47) 149 (revision) which contains the brief prepared for the United Kingdom delegation to New York last July. If not you should be aware that the plans of H.M.G. see certain objections to the(1) establishment of this commission and in any case I do not think that it(1) would serve any useful purpose for their intention was (and presumably still is) to give it unhesitating support if the Middle East states want it.

NO. But please
see folios 10A
in S/909/47

MEMIN.

(HDLem/HA).

FILE NO.S/1004/47.

TELEGRAM.

Cypher (W/T)

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— H.M.Minister, AMMAN.

To :—S.OF S. F.O. LONDON.

Despatched 28/1/48 (11.15)

Received

No. 41 of 28th January, 1948.

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.41 of 28th January.

Repeated to B.M.E.O.

No. 2

CONFIDENTIAL.

Fertile.

B.M.E.O.'s telegram 8 (of 26th January, 1948), to Tehran.

As Transjordan is not a member of United Nations Organisation I assume that it is not intended that I should sound the Government here about Economic Commission for Middle East. If however views of Transjordan authorities are required reference should be made to Prime Minister in London. None of the ministers here are likely to make any statement on the subject until Prime Minister returns.

PRODROME.

(ASK/HDLEM/HA).

MESSAGE FORM

W/T Office Serial No. 133

Cipher Office Serial No.

Date 27/

To:-

Pro Amman



TIME OF ORIGIN

TIME OF RECEIPT

2015

From:-

Pro Cairo

Originator's No.

Number of Groups

53

Special Instructions

5959 TCP

Indication of Priority

Important

1	00526 .	FERTILE	addressed FO	4
2	30 repld .	amman stop 1.	Your	8
3	tel no. 61 .	Please see my telegram		12
4	to MIDDLE EAST	posts repeated to		16
5	you as my tel no 29	which		20
6	is self explanatory	2. I have not		24
7	invited HM MINISTER	at amman		28
8	to sound TRANSJORDAN	govt as it is		32
9	not a member of	united nations.		36
10	Memor			40
11				44
12				48
13				52
14				56
15				60
16				64
17				68
18				72
19				76
20				80
21				84
22				88
23	PP. 3 & 4			92
24				96
25				100

Time of Enciphering or Deciphering

Cipher Clerk's Initials

CYPHER

FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON

28th January 1948

16.15 28/1/48

122

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office No 122

Repeated to British Middle East Office No 29

AMMAN - No 4 Saving
Addis Ababa - No 1 Saving
Damascus No 3 Saving
Beirut - No 3 Saving
Jedda - No 9 Saving
Tehran - No 5 Saving



British Middle East Office telegram to Tehran No 8

Proposal for Economic Commission for Middle East.

Government have just resigned and in view of present political crisis I doubt possibility of discussing this question here for a week or two. I will do so as soon as I can.

2. In any case I think Iraqis would want to know what use such commission would be to them and would wish to exchange views with other Arab States before committing themselves. They might well feel that they get all the advice and assistance they needed from British Middle East Office.

3. Their views may also well be tempered by Palestine partition decision of U.N.O. and existence of Arab League which officially was an economic sub-committee. In spite of proposed exclusion of Great Powers they might fear that such a commission might mean unwanted interference from outside.

BUSK

GCP/JCBB/DLB
MP/PSW
ME



(W/T)

(S/1004/47)

✓ TELEGRAM.

Cypher (M/OTP)

~~Code~~

~~Clear~~

From :— F.O. LONDON

To :—H.M. Minister, AMMAN.

Despatched 8.2.48 (14.55)

Received 8.2.48 (15.00)

No. 71

of 6th February, 1948.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

Addressed to B.M.E.O. Cairo telegram No. 116 of February 6th repeated for information Addis Ababa, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Jedda, Amman, Teheran, Ukdal New York, Washington, Paris.

Your telegram No. 29 (not repeated to New York or Washington).

Following for Mr. Troutbeck.

In the light of the replies so far received we have considered with the Departments chiefly concerned our attitude towards the ~~prospect~~ ^{proposal} for an Economic Commission for the Middle East. For your information you may wish to know the following conclusions have been reached. We propose that the U.K. Delegate should be instructed to press that nothing further should be done at the present session of the Economic and Social Council than the establishment of a committee to report to the next session of the council on the factors bearing on the setting up of the commission. We still hope it will be possible to delay indefinitely its establishment and we have been guided in reaching this conclusion by the following considerations:

(a) The proposed commission is likely to be of little practical value since the regional economic bodies which have already or will shortly be set up could adequately cover the field. It would

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :—

To :—

Despatched

Received

No.

of - Page 2 -

further complicate relations with the Arab League and the position of the B.M.E.O. would be made more difficult.

(b) We consider at all costs the U.S.S.R. must be kept out of the Commission and we are not confident of being able to do so.

(c) The U.K. should be a member of the Commission in order to ensure that adequate representation of our Colonial territories and in respect of the Sudan a counter poise to the weight which could otherwise be brought into play by a numerically powerful Egyptian controlled bloc. For these reasons (the second of the three cannot of course be publicly admitted) we are not able to ~~treat~~^{propose} all the great powers should deny themselves membership (1).

2. If as we expect an ad hoc committee is set up to study the problems involved the U.K. delegate should therefore be instructed to take as his primary aim the inclusion in membership of the Commission the U.K. and the exclusion of the U.S.S.R. We should welcome membership by the United States and France if they wanted it. If it appears impossible to prevent the membership of the U.S.S.R. the délegation may have to consider the possibility of getting another member of the adhoc committee to suggest that the whole proposal should be shelved.

3. An objection which will no doubt become apparent from the point of view of the Arab States will be that the Jewish state in Palestine will certainly be

considered /

TELEGRAM.

Cypher

Code

Clear

From :—

To :—

Despatched

Received

No.

of (Page 3)

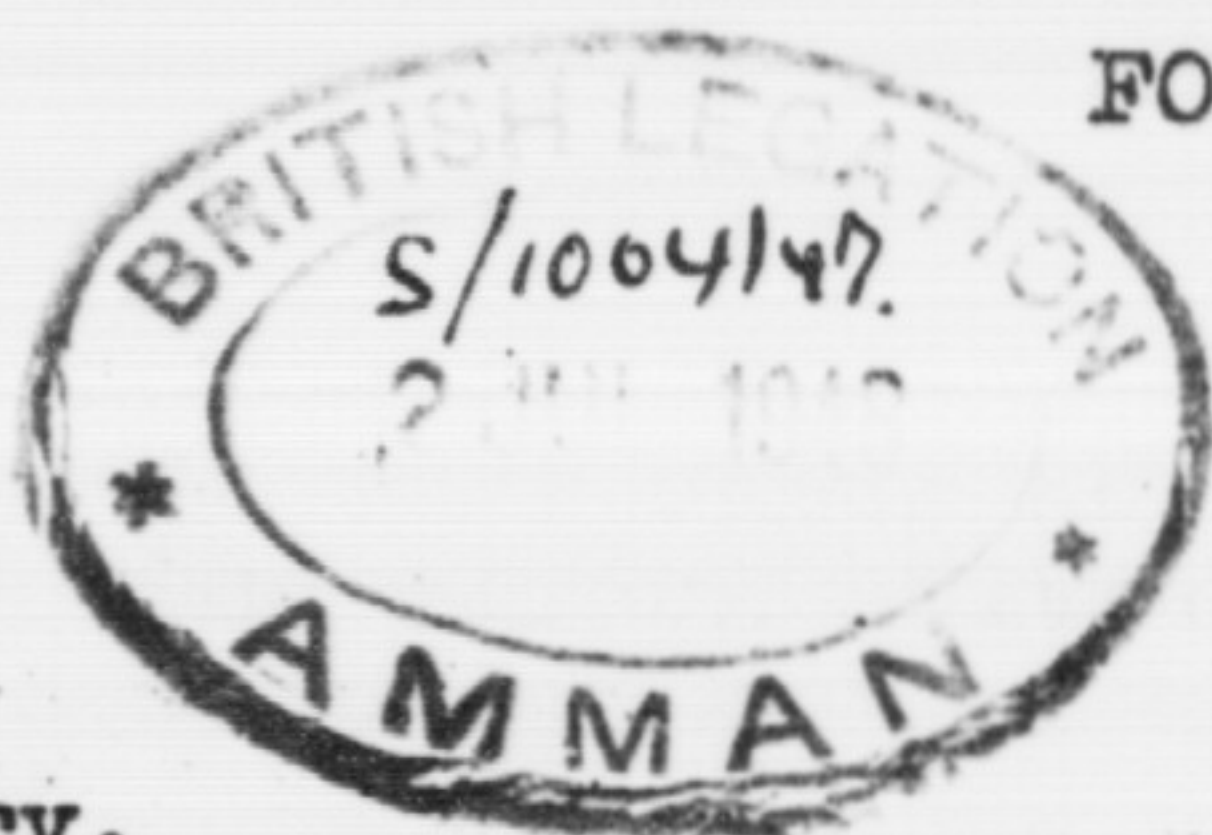
considered for membership. In view however of the attitude which we have taken up over the Palestine question this argument should not be used by you.

4. These conclusions have now received ministerial approval. This information should prove useful to you for background during the meeting of the Arab League.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

UE 55 30/453/53

CONFIDENTIAL



FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

June, 1948.

Dear Chancery,

The ad hoc committee of the U.N. Economic and Social Council, which has been considering the proposal for an Economic Commission for the Middle East, has now completed its deliberations, and its report, which recommends the establishment forthwith of an E.C.M.E., will be considered at the 7th Session of the Economic and Social Council which begins on July 19th. The purpose of this letter is to give you an outline of the proceedings which have led up to this recommendation, of the attitudes of the various governments concerned, and of the proposed scope and functions of the Commission.

2. The proposal for an E.C.M.E., was first put forward by the Lebanese delegate to the Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council in March, 1947, on his own personal initiative, but was not then pressed. It was raised again by the Egyptian delegate to the General Assembly in October, 1947, and the Assembly recommendation that the problem should be considered was discussed at the Sixth Session of the Economic and Social Council (February - March, 1948) and referred to an ad hoc committee. This ad hoc committee was composed of representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., France, Turkey, Venezuela, China, and Lebanon, (all members of the Economic and Social Council) and of Iraq, Egypt and Persia. The Governments of Syria, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen, and Afghanistan, and a representative of the Arab League, were invited by the ad hoc committee to express their views, and the views of the Governments of Ethiopia and of Greece were also taken into account.

3. The United Kingdom attitude towards this proposal has been that, whilst for several reasons we were not anxious to see this Commission established, we should not, in the interests of our relations with the Arab States, wish to oppose a general demand. Apart from doubts about the usefulness of the Commission, particularly as its functions would to a large extent be the same as those of the Economic Committee of the Arab League, we doubted whether the proposal had much support amongst

/the

The Chanceries:-

Athens
Angora
Beirut
Damascus
✓Amman
Bagdad
Tehran
Cairo
B.M.E.O. Cairo

Kabul
Addis Ababa
Jedda
Khartoum

Political Resident
Persian Gulf.

the Middle East States; when first sounded the Arab League governments appeared to be aware that the establishment of the Commission might well provide Russia and others with an opportunity to interfere in the Economic Section of the Arab League. Furthermore, we considered that the Commission would complicate our relations with the Arab League and also, if the Arab States dominated it, the Commission might tend to become an oil trust under the aegis of the U.N. which would press for modifications of the present Arab oil concessions. Between the 4th and 6th Sessions of the Economic and Social Council the Arab League States appeared however to have decided to support the proposal. The question of prestige (there were, already, Economic Commissions for Europe, and for Asia and the Far East, and a proposal for one for Latin America), and the possibility of the Commission's serving as a means of bringing pressure to bear on such bodies as the International Bank (and also on the U.S. and U.K. for loans and credits and for technical assistance), were, no doubt contributory causes, as also perhaps was the Arab desire to obtain some compensation from the U.N. for their rebuff on the Palestine partition plan.

4. Failing a possible breakdown over the whole proposal our main aims in the ad hoc committee were therefore:-

- (i) The exclusion of the U.S.S.R. and the Russian Republics.
- (ii) The inclusion of the U.K. in the membership, or failing that, provision for the door to be left open to possible future participation by the U.K. and to the exercise of some influence over the Commission through the B.M.E.O. By these means we hoped to be in a position to minimise the possible embarrassment the Commission might cause us, and at the same time to guide the Commission into those fields of work where it might produce any useful results.
- (iii) Provision (as in the Economic Commissions for Asia and the Far East and for Latin America) for the participation of non-self-governing territories as Associated Members. The inclusion of this provision was pressed both as a matter of principle (it has been written into the terms of reference of several international organisations) and because it might give some ground for U.K. participation or direct interest in the Commission deriving from U.K. responsibilities in the area.
- (iv) A fairly wide membership, in order partly to balance the Arab League States.

5. In the event the Palestine situation over-shadowed the proceedings, and it became clear that the Arab members, led by the Arab League representative (who, although not a full member of the Committee, appears to have been the dominating personality and to have spoken more as a representative of Egypt than of the Arab League), would strongly oppose Great Power membership. In January last Cairo reported Rifai Bey of the Egyptian Government as saying that he hoped the United States and United Kingdom would accept membership of the Commission as both countries might be able to provide funds and technical
/assistance

assistance for a programme of development which the Commission might prepare. In early April it was reported from the same source that the Arab League Council at a meeting in February had considered it desirable to restrict membership of ECME to independent States in the Middle East so long as there was any danger of the establishment of a separate Jewish State, since they feared the opening up of the Middle East to competition between the Great Powers. In face of this opposition and in consideration of our relations with the Arab States we ultimately withdrew the United Kingdom claim to membership. The United States and French, whose attitudes towards the proposal for the ECME were generally similar to ours, had previously agreed to a self-denying ordinance on the part of the Great Powers, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics attempt to gain membership for itself was unanimously voted down. In his final speech, however, the United Kingdom Delegate, whilst expressing support for the ad hoc Committee's recommendations, made a carefully worded reservation to the effect that we considered it paradoxical that the Middle East States should ask for external assistance in the form of a United Nations Regional Economic Commission whilst at the same time they desired to exclude from the Commission those states outside the Middle East which were best able and most willing to give assistance.

6. The United Kingdom Delegation pressed for and secured the insertion of the Associate Membership Clause. The Arab opposition to the participation of non-self-governing territories was led by the Iraqi and Egyptian members backed by the Persian member, the Arab League representative and the representatives of Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen, Turkey and Syria (although Syria would reconsider the question if the territories were to be represented by natives). The Ethiopian government (in a memorandum) was of the opinion that Eritrea and Somaliland should not be included, since "they were to be re-integrated into the territory of one of the states, members of the future Commission" (Ethiopia). Later in the proceedings, when the United Kingdom Delegate made a reservation to the effect that in the United Kingdom view the Sudan should be included in the list of non-self-governing territories in the area, the Egyptian member "wished it to be recorded that the fact that Egypt continued serving on the ad hoc Committee or eventually participated in an ECME should not be taken as indicating that Egypt accepted the principle of participation in any capacity by non-self-governing territories". An effort has been made recently, however, to allay the Egyptian Government's suspicions that this clause was merely a means of gaining United Kingdom membership by indirect means; they have been told informally that our reason for pressing for the insertion of this clause was that it was a matter of principle, as in several other international organisations, and that, though we could not commit the territories concerned (Aden, Cyprus, and British Somaliland) our present information was that none of them was likely to apply for associate membership for the present. B.M.E.O. Cairo reports that the Egyptian Government's representative appeared completely satisfied with this explanation; it is to be hoped therefore that the clause will not be challenged again later.

7. The proposed terms of reference of the ECME as recommended by the ad hoc Committee are given at Annex A to this letter. The noteworthy points are:-

(a) Membership. Although the United Kingdom, France, and the United States are excluded, the membership is otherwise as wide as we should want it to be. It is also qualified by the term "in the first instance", the insertion of which we considered desirable so as not to preclude the possible expansion of membership later to include states outside the Middle East. We were not inclined to support Greek or Afghan membership lest it should lead to the inclusion of the U.S.S.R. Republics. But once the exclusion of the Republics had been secured and the Arabs had shown readiness to support both applications (representatives of both states had expressed the desire of their governments to be included in the membership of the proposed ECME) we voted for their inclusion. Although Pakistan had showed no interest in the proposed Commission the ad hoc Committee agreed, on Arab initiative, that an application for membership from Pakistan should be given favourable consideration. Pakistan has now submitted an application, which will be considered when the ad hoc Committee's report comes before the Economic and Social Council. India displayed some interest in a Middle East organisation when at the Fourth Session of the Council it suggested the setting up of a commission for Ethiopia and North Africa, and again at the Sixth Session, when, although not a member of the Council, its representative at Lake Success was invited to take part in the discussions on this subject. Contrary to our expectation, however, India has not as yet staked a claim for membership. The Arab members attached great importance to the inclusion in the terms of reference of a provision that new members should not be admitted by the Economic and Social Council without prior consultation with the Commission itself, nor amendments of substance made to the terms of reference without due consideration of the views of the Commission (the latter point is not yet included in the terms of reference). The Arab members informed the United Kingdom Delegation that they considered this provision to be a safeguard against or at least a ~~means~~ of delaying, any attempt on the part of the Council to grant membership to the Jewish State in Palestine, although it is in point of fact merely a formal recognition of common practice in the other regional Commissions. We supported the insertion of this provision.

(b) Associate Membership. Clause 4 permits non-self-governing territories in the Arabian Peninsula, North-East Africa (the definition of which was purposely left vague) and the Eastern Mediterranean to apply for Associate Membership if and when they choose. They are not included in the geographical scope of the Commission until they have become Associate Members.

(c) /

- (c) Geographical scope (Clause 6). This clause has been defined more or less as we wanted it except that Greece and Turkey, which are already within the geographical scope of the Economic Commission for Europe, are included.
- (d) Clause 5 is intended to cover the case of Transjordan.
- (e) Clause 17. A decision on the site of the headquarters was left over as the Arab delegates (except the Egyptian who pressed for the selection of Cairo) had not received instructions. This question may be decided at the forthcoming session of the Council, or, more probably, by the Commission itself when it is set up. We should favour the selection of Cairo, chiefly because it would facilitate co-operation with the British Middle East Office, and therefore provide us with more chance of influencing the Commission through the Secretariat.
- (f) Clause 18. The ECME will, like the other Regional Economic Commissions, be subject to review before 1951 to determine whether or not it should be continued, having in mind the fact that its work will tend more and more towards that of long-term economic development rather than short-term economic reconstruction.

8. If, as seems inevitable, the ad hoc Committee's recommendation is accepted by the Council the ECME will probably hold its first session in the autumn of this year. It may then adopt the practice of the Economic Commissions for Asia and the Far East and for Latin America of holding sessions every six months, and in the various countries represented on the commission in rotation. Like the other commissions, the ECME can take no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country and its functions will be mainly advisory. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East has achieved little more to date (it has been in existence one year) than to set in train various studies on ways and means of promoting inter alia the industrial development plans of countries in the region, and intra-regional and extra-regional trade. Its working party on industrial development is authorised to make recommendations based on its detailed studies on means of assisting the governments in the area in their industrial development plans, both by regional co-operation and by external assistance, and means of co-ordinating these plans. It is also about to set up a joint secretariat working party with the Food and Agriculture Organisation for the promotion of Food production in the area, and, it is embarking on studies of flood control and technical training services (probably in conjunction with the International Labour Office).

9. The outstanding point in the proposed structure of the ECME is its future relations with the Economic Section of the Arab League. The functions of the two bodies are on paper almost identical, but the Arab League has given its active support to the proposal for the ECME (in point of fact, such views as it has agreed appear to have been binding upon the representatives of the various Arab States). Close co-ordination between the two bodies is recommended in the proposed terms of reference of ECME, and we have heard from New York that there may be a proposal that the members of the Secretariat of the Economic Section of the Arab League should also serve in the Secretariat of ECME. This latter proposal will no doubt be opposed vigorously. But, on the co-ordination problem, it remains to be seen whether, as seems probable, the ECME will ultimately supersede the Economic Section of the Arab League.

Yours ever,

ECONOMIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

8A

ANNEX A

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE
EAST

(This text is based on the Council resolution establishing the Economic Commission for Latin America)

(The revision was prepared by the Secretariat at the request, and according to the instructions, of the ad hoc Committee)

The Economic and Social Council

Having considered the report of the ad hoc Committee appointed to study the factors bearing upon the creation of an Economic Commission for the Middle East, and

Having noted the resolution adopted at the one hundred and second plenary session of the General Assembly on 31st October, 1947 (resolution 120 (II)),

Establishes an Economic Commission for the Middle East with terms of reference as follows:-

1. The Economic Commission for the Middle East, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems arising out of the war and for raising the level of economic activity in the Middle East, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Middle Eastern countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of the Middle East as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

2. The Commission shall direct its activities especially toward the study and seeking of solutions of problems arising in the Middle East from world economic maladjustment and towards other problems connected with the world economy, with a view to the co-operation of the Middle Eastern countries in the common effort to
/achieve

achieve world-wide recovery and economic stability.

3. The Members of the Commission shall in the first instance be the following Members of the United Nations: Afghanistan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Yemen. New Members may be admitted by the Council after consultation with the Commission.

4. (a) Any Non-Self-Governing Territory in the Arabian Peninsula, the Eastern Mediterranean and North-East Africa may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the Member responsible for the international relations of such Territory, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such Territory may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

(b) Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

(c) Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission, and shall be eligible to hold office in such body.

5. The Commission may admit in a consultative capacity States not Members of the United Nations in the Arabian Peninsula, the Eastern Mediterranean and North-East Africa, and shall determine the conditions in which they may participate in its work.

6. The geographical scope of the Commission's work shall be the territories of the members of the Commission as well as those of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Territories of States, in the Arabian Peninsula, the Eastern Mediterranean and North-East Africa, admitted by the Commission as associate members or in a consultative capacity, under Article 3(b) and Article 4.

7. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in a consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

8. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non member, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.

9. (a) The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies to attend its meetings and to participate, without vote, in its deliberations with
/respect

respect to items on its agenda relating to matters within the scope of their activities; and may invite observers from such other inter-governmental organizations as it may consider desirable in accordance with the practices of the Council;

(b) The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose.

10. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison be maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies with special attention to the avoidance of the duplication of efforts.

11. The Commission shall in so far as the members of the League of Arab States are concerned co-operate with, and take the necessary measures to co-ordinate its activities with, the appropriate organs of the League of Arab States to avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort between those organs and itself; to this end the Commission is empowered to and shall seek to make working arrangements with the appropriate organs of the League of Arab States regarding the joint or independent study or execution of economic problems within its competence, and the fullest exchange of information necessary for the co-ordination of efforts in the economic field. The Commission shall invite the League of Arab States to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the Commission in a consultative capacity.

12. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

13. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

14. The Commission shall submit to the Council once a year a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, and shall make interim reports at each regular session of the Council.

15. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

16. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

17. The headquarters of the Commission shall be The Commission shall at each session decide upon the place of meeting for its next session.....

18. Not later than 1951, the Council shall make a special review of the work of the Commission with a view to determining whether the Commission should be terminated or continued, and if continued what modification if any should be made in its terms of reference.



9

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

17th September, 1948.

(UE 7174/453/53)

Dear Chancery,

In our letter of the 26th June, 1948, we gave you an outline of the proceedings in the ad hoc Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council which had been considering the factors bearing upon the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East. The report of this Committee was to have been considered at the recent 7th Session of the Economic and Social Council and we had expected the Commission to be set up immediately. In the event, however, after representations by the New Zealand delegation in particular, the (Lebanese) President Mr. Malik allowed the item to slide to the later part of the Agenda and eventually, when drastic measures had to be taken to bring the Session to a close, he proposed that it, with several other items, should be postponed until the next Session of the Council.

2. The New Zealand argument for postponement was that a Commission of this sort could not operate until conditions were more settled in the Middle East. The representative of the Lebanon entered a short formal protest and the representative of Egypt was invited to the table to associate himself with the remarks of his Lebanese colleague. The voting was eight for postponement (including the United States of America, France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), seven against (four Latin Americans, China, Denmark and the Lebanon) with three abstentions (United Kingdom, Turkey and Canada). We felt it was desirable to abstain on this vote.

3. The ad hoc Committee's recommendation that an ECME should be set up forthwith is therefore now left pending until the 8th Session of the Economic and Social Council (February - March, 1949) unless the representatives of the Arab States attempt to persuade the General Assembly to consider it next month.

4. We are enclosing with this letter certain amendments which should be made to the proposed terms of reference given in Annex "A" to our above-mentioned letter.

Yours ever,

Economic Relations Department

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Amman.

Copy
(UE 7474/453/53)

9A

AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX 'A' TO THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT. CIRCULAR LETTER OF 26th JUNE, 1948.

(ad hoc Committee's draft Resolution on the establishment of a Regional Economic Commission for the Middle East).

1. Paragraph 3 - delete present paragraph,
substitute the following:-

"The members of the Commission shall in the first instance be the following members of the United Nations:
Afghanistan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Yemen.
New members may be admitted by the Council after consultation with the Commission".

2. Paragraph 11 - insert in first line between the words "shall" - "and co-operate":-

".. in so far as the members of the League of Arab States are concerned".....